

SENATE BILL REPORT

SJR 8206

As of February 27, 2017

Brief Description: Amending the Constitution to preserve the right to hunt and fish.

Sponsors: Senators Braun, Takko, Pearson, Fortunato, Schoesler, Bailey, Warnick, Angel, Rivers, Walsh and Becker.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Natural Resources & Parks: 3/09/17.

Brief Summary of Joint Resolution

- Directs the Secretary of State to submit to the voters a constitutional amendment providing the right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife subject to certain legislation and rules.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS

Staff: Curt Gavigan (786-7437)

Background: Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) in General. DFW serves as manager of the state's fish and wildlife resources. Among other duties, DFW must protect and manage fish and wildlife, including establishing the time, place, manner, and methods used to harvest or enjoy fish and wildlife. The Legislature has established a statutory framework that provides a governance structure and substantive authorities.

Composition of the Fish and Wildlife Commission. The Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) consists of nine members who serve six-year terms. Members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Each odd-numbered year, the Commission must elect one of its members as Chair and another member as Vice-Chair. The Legislature has authorized the Commission to establish policies regarding fish and wildlife and to monitor the DFW's implementation of those policies.

Authority to Appoint the Director. The Commission has the authority to appoint the Director of Fish and Wildlife (Director). The Director must supervise the administration and operation of the DFW and perform duties as prescribed by law and delegated by the Commission.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Joint Resolution: The Secretary of State must include a constitutional amendment on the ballot for the next general election, which would:

- provide that the right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife is a valued part of Washington's heritage and must be preserved for the public good;
- state that the people have a right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife, with the right including traditional harvest methods and subject only to certain legislation and rules adopted under the authority of the Legislature;
- provide that hunting and fishing are a preferred means of managing and controlling wildlife; and
- specify that the constitutional amendment does not impact trespass or property rights law.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: The Joint Resolution takes effect if approved by the voters at the next general election.